

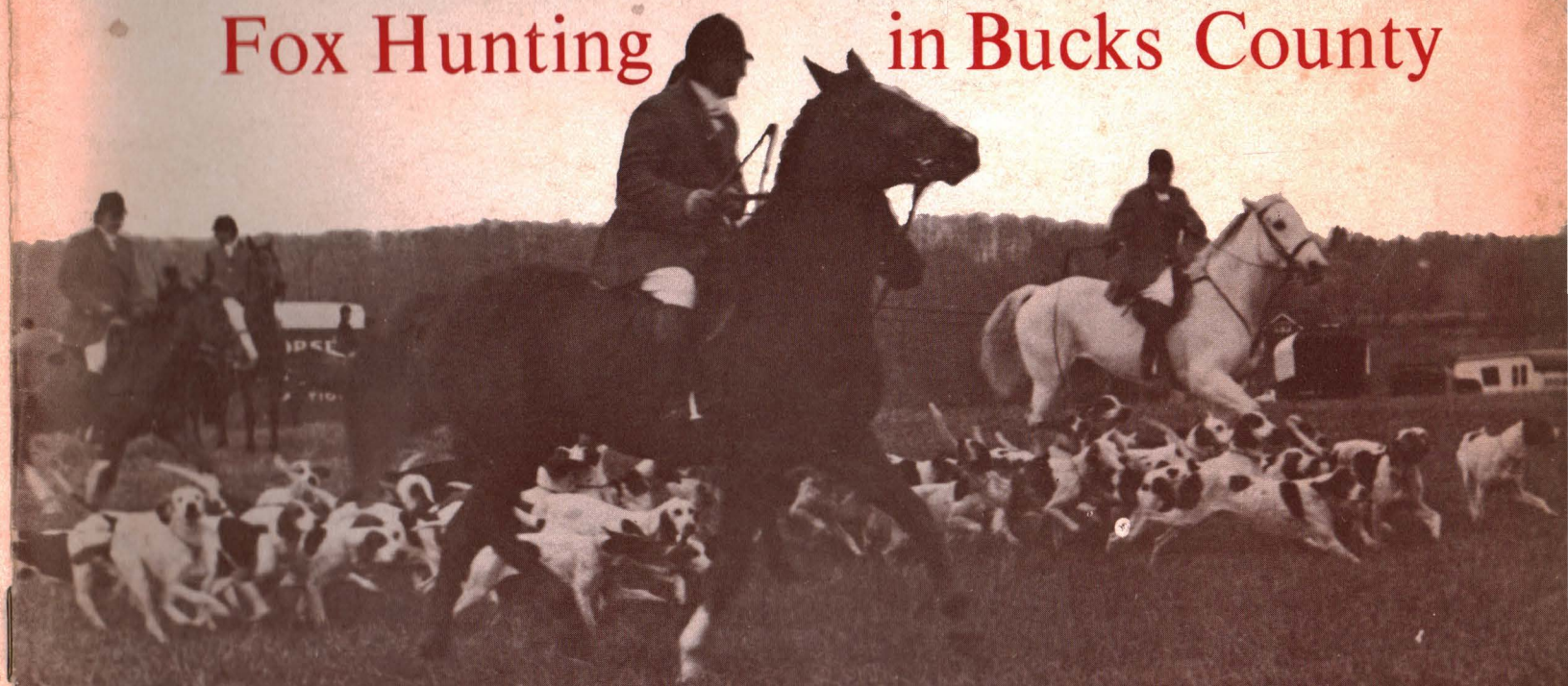
Bucks County

March, 1974 50¢

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Bucks County **PANORAMA**

— The Magazine of Bucks County —

ESTABLISHED 1959

Volume XVIII March, 1974 Number 3

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ON THE COVER: The fox hunting season officially ends on the 31st of this month, but will start again on August 1st. Alfred H. Sinks has 'hilltopped' with the Huntingdon Valley Hunt Club from the Hunter Trials to Opening Meet and other hunts with his cameras and his pen. The feature begins on page 13 of this issue.

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The Furlong Hotel: The back portion was built in the 1700's while the larger part of the hotel was erected as the "Rural Retreat" in the 1800's.

The village itself has had many names before it settled on *Furlong*. Most of the names referred in some way to the inn, which is no wonder as it was a prominent landmark on the Old York Road.

In the early 1800's, it was called the Green Tree Inn and the area became known as Greentree for a while until it was changed to Bushington Post Office or The Bush. (It seems the tree on the sign at the inn looked more like a shrub.)

Other places in Bucks County must have had bush landmarks because Bushington was a common name thus confusing the Doylestown Post Office. Both postmasters met to discuss the name change and, in the course of their conversation, the word *furlong* was used and the Doylestown postmaster is quoted as saying "there's your name!"

But ... it *could* have happened this way. ... imagine the postmaster from Doylestown bemoaning the crowds in the inns of the growing county seat. The postmaster from Bushington would have sympathized with him and told him that the inn at Bushington had quite a name for itself as a rural retreat and he really ought to give the place a try. Then perhaps the postmaster inquired about the distance he would have to travel for a quiet relaxing meal and the answer was "Oh — about a furlong from Doylestown." *Ed.*



February 12, 1974

Photo by A. H. Sinks

ON A HILL IN HOLICONG

by Cindy Solt

A mother of six grown children and a writer and artist. An unlikely combination? Not for the vibrant, youthful woman named Phoebe Taylor. *continued on page 26*



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by
A. Russell Thomas

139TH ANNUAL MEETING

ANDREW JACKSON was president of the United States when the Union Horse Company of Doylestown Township and Vicinity For The Detention and Apprehension of Horse Thieves and Other Villains was organized in 1835 at Jake Fries' Turk's Head Hotel in Doylestown Township. Although the company did not have a single horse theft on its books for 1973 and none in January this year, the 139th anniversary dinner-meeting of the company was celebrated at high noon, Saturday, February 9th, at the Doylestown Post Home No. 175, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

THERE WAS plenty of business to transact, including election of officers, the "branding of colts" (new members), presentation of a "Distinguished Service Award", oratory by a noted speaker, plus a delicious dinner. The company's long-time traditional public hanging in Doylestown's Monument Square has again been called off this year but the retiring president, Al Cooney and his very able aides provided plenty of excitement.

THE FIRST dinner, served 139 years ago, according to records in the custody of the Keeper of the Stud Book, cost each Unioneer 37½ cents. In 1870 the cost was \$1.50 per dinner, served at the historic Fountain House in Doylestown, now the home of the Girard Bank. This year the cost of the entire affair was \$10.00 including annual dues and dinner.

AS NEARLY as possible, the original regulations in

the bylaws written in 1837, were carried out at the 1974 dinner-meeting. Some of them are:

"... Whilst a member is speaking, no person shall entertain private discourse or otherwise interrupt him; if so, he shall be reprimanded by the president and fined 12½ cents, and for every similar offense offered at the same meeting, shall subject the member so offending to double the amount of fine incurred, subject nevertheless to a decision of two-thirds of the members present.

"... Any members manifesting unbecoming warmth in debate, or making personal reproaches, or not speaking to the subject under discussion shall be called to order by the president and fined 25 cents for the use of the society.

"... A motion to adjourn shall always be in order, and decided without debate.

"... Any members appearing at a stated or other meeting, in a state of intoxication, may be compelled to quit the room, and pay a fine of 50 cents for the first offense, and the second, \$1 and there shall be no excuse or appeal.

"... No cigars allowed to be smoked during the hours of business, under penalty of 12½ cents for each offense.

"... No member shall occupy the floor, on any subject more than five minutes, nor speak more than twice on the same subject. No member shall introduce liquor into the room, whilst the society is at business, under penalty of 25 cents.

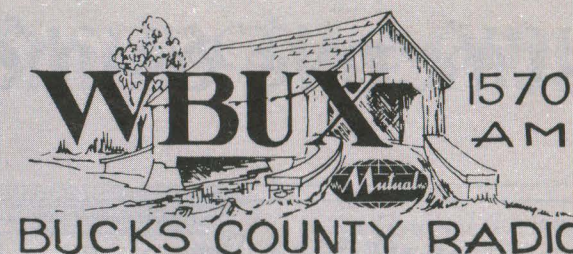
"... It shall be the duty of the secretary to give insertions of all meetings of business, in the nearby newspapers, under penalty of 50 cents each, for non-performance of duty.

"... Any neglect of the president, secretaries or committees in the foregoing duty assigned them — that for each neglect they shall forfeit and pay the society \$1.00 each."

ARTICLE 20 of the Company Constitution that is read at every annual meeting states:

"Whenever a horse or mule is stolen from a member of the company and is not recovered, and the company shall have ridden their route in pursuit of the same, the president and a majority of the directors, on application of the owner, shall appoint a committee of three members to assess the cash value of the same, and report at the next annual meeting of the company, and if their report be then approved, the company shall pay the owner two-thirds of the valuation affixed to said mule or horse; provided that the company shall not be held liable for the insurance of more than two horses or mules taken by the same act of theft.

continued on page 12



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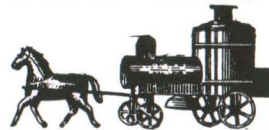
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RUSS continued from page 9

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* * *

ODDS AND ENDS: My list of cherished friends, and there are many, was shockingly depleted since this Rambler wrote his last column for *Panorama*. Three very close buddies whom I will miss greatly are Nicholas F. (Nick) Power, certainly one of the Bux-Mont area's finest gentlemen and sports figures and father of former Bucks County Judge William M. Power who is now president of the Pennsylvania State Bar Association. My other two very dear friends were Joseph J. Conroy, Bucks County's best known automobile dealer and one of the best known Ford Agency owners in the country; and Wilbur (Cookie) Cook, whom I roomed with for a brief time while a patient at the Garden Court Nursing Home (Doylestown) while recuperating from a surgical visit at our wonderful Doylestown Hospital. They were certainly THREE ACES worth knowing.

* * *

CONGRATULATIONS: Certainly very much in order for the *Daily Intelligencer* and its entire staff and ownership in giving central Bucks County a ultra-modern \$1.45 million newspaper plant, including a handsome \$775,000 building at N. Broad Street and Atkinson Drive. What a vastly different setup from the old headquarters where I spent 42 very enjoyable years in the news room and as sports editor. This Rambler only wishes that my Dad, who once owned and was editor and manager of the *Intell* could see the new plant.

* * *

OUR COURTS are Growing: Bucks County's court calendar for 1974 contains the names of our nine judges, fourteen court stenographers and believe it or not, 260 attorneys practicing in Bucks County. This Rambler once covered court as a newsman when there was but one and then two judges, one district attorney and one court reporter, right here in Doylestown.

TALLYHO, YOIKS, or WHAT HAVE YOU?

But
it happens
right around here!

By Alfred H. Sinks

For most of us fox hunting (the kind done on horseback with the assistance of a carefully-bred and keenly-trained pack of hounds) may be strictly something else. But in Bucks County, indeed in many parts of the United States and Canada, the ancient sport — with its treasured traditions, rigid rules of dress and conduct and the expertise required of those who organize, plan, and lead the game — is winning new friends every season.

Fox hunting also has vociferous enemies. Some working and non-working farmers "just don't want them dudes messing around on my land!" Today's mechanized farmer has been divorced from horseflesh for generations. The sight of fine horses no longer sends him. In addition there are many city bred lovers of wild species who have had little contact with or knowledge of those species. They inevitably feel that the poor fox is a member of a persecuted minority. You turn a pack of hounds on him; he is hopelessly outnumbered and so

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Photography by Alfred H. Sinks



doomed to an untimely and cruel death.

Actually fox hunting — unlike most competitive sports — is a three-handed game. First of all, there are the members of the hunt who must be excellent riders on excellently-trained horses. Second, there are the hounds which are bred and trained to catch and follow the scent of a fox. Finally, there is the fox. As Aesop noted 2500 years ago, he is a wily fellow and full of fun. Occasionally he can also be full of fight. At least one Bucks County hunter has seen a tough, old fox turn on a pack of hounds and put them to flight. Evidently he found them more fun to chase than his usual quarry.

Experienced hunters tend to agree that a "good" fox can outplay any pack of hounds and he evidently gets a big kick out of doing so. Hounds will sometimes run the same wise, old fox many times and every time he'll win hands down.

In fact during "cubbing season" in August, the Master of Fox Hounds pays as much attention to "training" the foxes as he does to training his pack of hounds. The debutante foxes roaming about at that season will, when they sniff, hear or see the hounds, immediately "go to ground!" That is, they will dive into the nearest burrow and stay there. They do not yet have the self-confidence to stay above ground and play the game. They need time to get used to the hunt and join in the game. Which they do. Fortunately for the hunter, Reynard the Fox is a mighty smart animal, and he learns plenty fast.

Foxes in the county are either red or gray. Actually they belong to two distinct species: *Vulpes fulva* (red) and *Urocyon cinereoargenteus* (gray). They differ in habits as well as physical characteristics. Hounds too are of various breeds: English, American, and crosses.

Once in a while a fox gets killed. But not nearly so often as do wild

animals or household pets slaughtered by a speeding car or truck. In this latter deadly game as in hunting, by the way, foxes are smarter. Compared with possums, raccoons, skunks or pet cats and dogs, they rarely expose themselves to this kind of mechanized slaughter.

As things stand today the risk of hunting is far greater to hunters, to their horses, and to the hounds than it is to foxes. But hunters persist because they enjoy the thrill of it: riding through beautiful open country, through tricky fords and over difficult jumps. Above all, sharing those experiences with a bunch of people who love all those things and who, consequently come to feel rather close to one another. Juniors as young as eight work hard to get into the game and veteran riders of 70-plus refuse to give it up.

Meantime more and more farmers are learning to enjoy the sight of 50 or more hunters, some in scarlet coats, riding across their land. In the past year at least one working farmer has become so fascinated that he turned hunter himself!

In the beginning, fox hunting was more a duty than a sport. The fox was a predator on poultry and had to be discouraged. It didn't do much good but the farmers found it fun. Probably there are still hundreds and perhaps thousands of informal farmer hunts in North America. As to large hunts which are organized and expertly led there were only 50 in 1908 but by 1928 there were 100, and there are about 120 today. The gentlemen who lead them are the Masters of Fox Hounds (MFH) who have their own organization, just like other skilled artisans!

On our continent the record shows the Gloucester Fox Hunting Club of Philadelphia organized in 1766 and the Brooklyn Hunt Club in 1781. Not until the 1880's however, were there many organized hunts with their own registered packs.

continued on page 16



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TALLYHO continued from page 15

Bucks County's Huntingdon Valley Hunt started in 1914 near the present Huntingdon Valley Country Club. Shortly afterward it moved to Warren Sinkler's farm near Ivyland. Next it migrated to Fulmer Miller's farm on Cold Spring Creamery Road, near Doylestown and thence, in 1971, to "Fox Heath" the farm of R. B. Harris (M. F. H.) on Swamp Road, Buckingham Township. The hunt's pack now consists of 30 "couples" or 60 hounds. Its membership is about 65 but since many are "family" memberships there may be 90 or more potential riders. Quite a spectacle when most of them are out and in action!

Hunting is not strictly a "participation" sport. It has its own breed of spectators called "hill-toppers." These play an exciting though sometimes frustrating game. In their cars they dash about over the back roads of which the county has so many. Listening for the voices of the hounds and the horns of the hunters they try to guess where the hunters may appear next.

In typical "estate country" fox hunting is a sport for the very, very rich. Hunting is done entirely on land owned by the hunt's own members and this land is maintained in conditions ideal for hunting. Such hunts employ staffs of paid "hunt servants": a professional huntsman and paid whippers-in to direct the hounds.

But in Bucks County the hunt is democratic. First of all the hunters must win the cooperation of other landowners. These have usually removed the old, stone fences and hedgerows and their large fields are fenced with wire. Wire fencing is an acute menace to horses and horsemen. So — after obtaining permission and at their own expense — the Bucks County hunters "coop" the barbed wire. That is, they build a wooden A-frame structure which straddles the wire fence so they can move from field to field.

Second, they do not employ servants. Most Bucks County riders feed, groom, and train their own horses. The M.F.H. and his whippers-in are unpaid, amateur enthusiasts like the other hunt members. Yet in spite of all this hard work they persist and every year, win more participants and *afficionados*.

Perhaps the explanation can be found in something which Mason Houghland, (M.F.H.), wrote 40 years ago: "Fox-hunting is not merely a sport . . . and it is more nearly a passion than a game. It is a religion, a racial faith. . ." Maybe so. At any rate, if you are fortunate enough to live in Bucks County it is all close at hand. All you have to do is get out of the rocking chair and go see for yourself! P.S. The season ends this month. ■

He's plowing ahead despite his heart attack

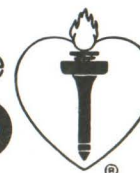


He survived because coronary care units, new drugs and modern methods of rehabilitation now help return more cardiacs to productive life.

Most victims survive first heart attacks. Of those who do, 4 out of 5 return to work.

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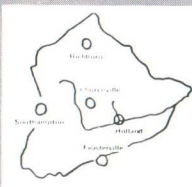




With March, the Mercer Museum is once again open to the public. When you visit this most fascinating and unique museum, don't forget to also stop at the Museum Shop where a fascinating collection of gifts is offered for sale. Local craftsmen have a variety of handmade items and a number of interesting books and pamphlets are also on hand. A brand new item stocked by the Shop is the American Revolution Newspaper, an illustrated tabloid which covers the events of our nation's history during the Revolution and is written in modern, easily understood language. All proceeds from the Museum Shop go solely to the support of the Mercer Museum, a most worthy effort.

* * *

The Tri-Hampton Mill Creek Watershed Association — needs YOUR HELP NOW!



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Selma Bortner, Levittown artist, whose works are in many public and private collections in eastern United States, was recently elected Chairman of the Bucks County Council on the Arts.

Katharine Steele Renninger, another of Bucks' well-known artists, was elected Secretary.

Mrs. Bortner's work, which includes etchings, collotypes and mixed media, is part of the permanent collection of Governor Nelson Rockefeller, the Philadelphia Museum of Art Print Collection, the Institute of Contemporary Art of the University of Pennsylvania, the Reading Museum of Art, Philadelphia Art Alliance and 9 Printmakers. It is also represented in private collections in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Kentucky, Massachusetts and Maryland.

Mrs. Renninger's paintings are in public collections in Philadelphia, Bucks and Montgomery Counties, New York, New Jersey and Washington, D.C. She has also exhibited in many national, regional and local shows. National Shows included those of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Butler Institute of Fine Arts, National Academy of Design, National Drawing Society Show, Allied Artists of New York, Audubon Artists and Chataqua.

Other members of the Council established late last

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year by the County Commissioners are Richard Bullock of the Arts Faculty at the Bucks County Community College; Herman Silverman, industrialist and art patron and Florence Schaffhausen, calligrapher and journalist.

* * *

The Bucks County Bicentennial Committee will open a local office in the near future at Main and Locust Streets in Fallsington. Office hours are scheduled to be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

According to Bicentennial Committee Chairman Pasquale Deon, the Bicentennial office will co-ordinate all 1976 activities of the County, State and local Townships and Boroughs in an attempt to formulate a central calendar of events for use by historical, patriotic, civic, business and social organizations within Bucks County.

"It is our objective to stimulate and activate all the people of Bucks, from the cultural community to the youth groups, towards celebrating a meaningful Bicentennial year. We realize that time is short but our intention is to make the citizens aware of their historic past, the potentials of the future. We intend to achieve this in 18 short months," he said.

The Bicentennial Committee members are: Ann Hawkes Hutton of Bristol, Honorary Chairman; Ivy

Jackson Banks of Washington Crossing, Vice-Chairman; M. Scoville Martin of Pipersville; Dorothy J. Shean, Middletown Township, Levittown; Norman Olsen of Plumsteadville; and John S. Neal of Levittown.

* * *

It is with both regret and pleasure that I take leave of Panorama after nearly six years of association with it in an editorial capacity. I feel regret because I will miss the fun of working with our authors and others who share my interest in the heritage and beauty of Bucks County; I feel pleasure in that I have made many friends and have learned much about the county and its history, thus adding to my own knowledge.

The new editor will be Carla Coutts of Furlong, who has been our art director and associate editor. She is an artist with much talent, and more to the point, brings to Panorama professional experience in the mechanics of publishing a magazine. Carla lives in a charming old house with her husband and two children and is indeed a Bucks Countian who can give much to the editorship of Panorama. You may be assured that a change in editors will in no way change Panorama's interest in bringing you the best in articles and pictures about Bucks County.

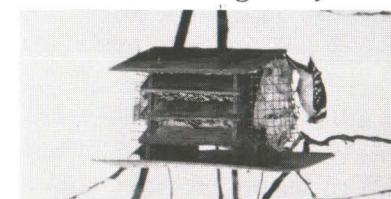
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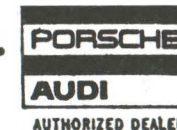
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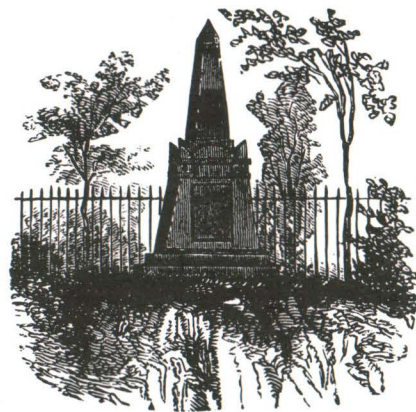
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History in Our Own



Back Yard

by
John LaValley
Steve Duntze
Lee Harrington
Warren Laskowski
Bob Leiter

The wind churns the weathered grey stone; decrepid oaks moan, and another day passes with modern civilization unheeding the cries of neglect. Neglect, in regard to history, comes not only to the antiquated buildings, but with equal frequency to the historic areas connected with the habitations; a well, a stable, or as in this case a cemetery. Often the layout of the grounds, combined with the quaint inscriptions on the tombstones, can tell more than a library of eighteenth century books. So it is with the Johnsville Early Settlers' Graveyard, which survives to whisper ancient tales of history and geneology in Bucks County.

Dating back to an era when prominent citizens possessed private cemeteries for the use of their family and close friends, the Johnsville graveyard contains less than seven different surnames with a total of fifty-five occupants lying peacefully inside its crumbling stone walls. Although largely overgrown, there is still evidence that more than a bit of planning and craftsmanship went into the cemetery's construction. All of the tombs are laid out in even rows, which, together with the iron gate and the fieldstone and mortar partition, stand as a testimony to a time when more time and concentration were put into a project.

The graveyard stands on what was the farm of Harman Van Sandt, to whose family it belonged. In it lie the remains of "the rude forefathers", the early Dutch settlers of the area. Grant Van Sandt, in his book of family history, tells us that included among these are the Van Sandts, Garrisons, Cravens, Sutphins, Van Dycks, and McDowells, together with other relations and immediate friends.

Van Sandt's father, Gerret, came from Holland in 1651 and settled on Long Island. As was often the custom of the time, Gerret Van Sandt purchased a tract in the then relatively unblemished and open area of Pennsylvania, and sent his son to maintain it.

Harman Van Sandt has the oldest tomb in the graveyard, dating to 1759. Buried nearby are his three wives, his children and numerous other relatives.

Perhaps more important to this particular area and time period is the name of Craven. The Craven family predates that of any other in the Warminster area, with evidence of their owning land in Bucks as early as 1685.

James Craven was the most prominent settler in the area now known as Warminster and Johnsville. Johnsville in the early days was called the Upper Corner, in order to separate and distinguish it from Southampton, then referred to as the Lower Corner. Because Craven maintained a store and tavern there it was frequently called Craven's Corner. The area gradually gained its present name after Craven's son, John, managed the business following his father's death.

James had very close ties with the Rev. William Tennent, who would preach at Craven's house prior to the building of a permanent church.

Isaac Craven, son of James, participated in the Battle of Crooked Billet during the Revolution and died of wounds received there. He, together with his father, and many of his relatives are all buried in the Johnsville Cemetery.

Wm. W.H. Davis, in his History of Bucks County relates tales of the men buried in the graveyard. For instance, Dr. William Bachelor was a native of Massachusetts and a surgeon in the army of General Gates during the Revolution. In later years he moved to Hatboro, where he maintained a large practice and where he later died. On one occasion, when called to visit a man whose leg was badly hurt, he required rum with which to bathe the injured leg, and a quart was sent for. After the wound had been dressed, the patient, who was fond of a "drop", was told by the doctor he might take a little internally. Upon hearing this, the suddenly revived patient perked up, and smiling, remarked, "Doctor, I always did admire your judgement."

continued on page 22



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HISTORY continued from page 21

James "Cobe" Scout was the so-called "eccentric" character of the Johnsville area. A close friend of Tom Paine and John Fitch, Scout became known as the town handy-man and a village fixture. One incident, documented by more than one source, was told of him while he was serving in the Continental Army. The Americans were on the west bank of the Delaware in 1776, while the enemy was occupying Trenton. According to accounts, a Hessian delivered some "obscene and insulting gesture" in Scout's direction, whereupon Scout raised his rifle and shot the man dead. The distance was over nine hundred yards, which even today would be considered an extraordinary shot. This incident and others added greatly to Scout's reputation back home. When he died in 1829 at the age of ninety-three, he was promptly interred in the Van Sandt graveyard with large prominent stones marking the place of his burial and highlighting his life.

Perhaps the most significant event in relation to modern times was witnessed by eight different men whose remains now lie in the little cemetery.

In the late eighteenth century John Fitch tested his model for the practical application of the steamboat. The eight men, whose names include that of Scout, McDowell, Van Sandt, Garrison and Sutphin came away after three hours declaring Fitch a genius and the experiment a complete success. Here was an invention to change the path of progress.

The Johnsville Early Settlers' Graveyard virtually rings with history. Numerous other stories could be related of how its inhabitants helped make Bucks County history. Charles Garrison, who kept Washington's army, assisted with provisions in the winter at Valley Forge. Abraham McDowell helped form the first non-Quaker religious organization in Bucks County. The list seems to go on without end.

Unfortunately, time and many citizens' negligent and apathetic views have not been kind to this tiny tract of history. Most of the stones have been knocked down or destroyed; the wall around the graveyard is crumbling; and much of the cemetery is overgrown with vegetation. What remains is pitiful evidence of the horror of urban growth and industrialization.

From its location behind William Tennent High School, on Street and Newtown Roads, the Johnsville cemetery does not possess the most convenient spot for a tourist attraction. But these are the times when convenience must be overlooked, and a genuinely sincere effort must be made to clean up and preserve this trace of our national heritage. Don't we owe our pioneer forefathers at least that much?

How to find Warrington



by H. Winthrop Blackburn

With 66,000 inhabitants, Warrington, Lancashire, is identified on English road maps in medium sized type. I had difficulty finding it, however, because it lies between two cities, Liverpool and Manchester, whose names are printed in large sized type, and Warrington appears to be overwhelmed by the two large cities and their suburbs. If you actually want to go there, it's not that difficult to find; it is just off the M6 Motorway that runs from Coventry through the Midlands to the Scottish border at Carlisle. If you're in your boat you sail up the River Mersey or the Manchester Ship Canal and you can't miss it.

If you arrive in Warrington on a rainy, cloudy day you can almost imagine that you are in a scene from one of the movies that depict the upward struggle of the English working classes. It reminds you more of Manayunk than of Warrington, Bucks County. It could write its own story about the working classes because Warrington makes foundry products, chemicals, soap, leather goods, wire, and a lot of the beer that keeps England afloat. It is 19 miles northeast of charming, medieval Chester; a city that contrasts very pleasantly with its Pennsylvania namesake.

The Church of England used to be a country church. England's dissenting churches, Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, etc., flourished in the industrial cities. The Industrial Revolution brought the

people to cities like Warrington and it was the dissident clergy who preached to them and made their unbearable lives a little easier. Independent and Primitive Methodism were born in Warrington and, not surprisingly, Britain's first total abstinence society was founded there in 1830.

Education has always been important in Warrington. The first grammar school was opened in 1526 and the city boasts the oldest tax-supported library in England. A schoolmaster's position drew the young Joseph Priestley there and kept him there from 1761 until 1767. In his spare time he preached, his theology lying somewhere along the road between Presbyterianism and Unitarianism, and performed chemical experiments. We can't claim that he discovered oxygen during his Warrington years, but he did meet and consult with Benjamin Franklin on one of his annual excursions to London.

When you recover from your first rainy-day impressions, you realize that the English working classes have made it. Warrington is a very prosperous place, and while a little urban renewal might be in order, the people have none of the downtrodden look about them. As in all English cities the streets were clean and crowded with small automobiles. The downtown car parks were full. The rain stopped and on the drive out of town Warrington looked much more cheerful than it did on the drive in.

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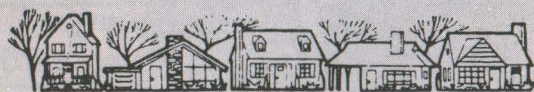
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Books

in REVIEW

THE STORY OF HONEY HOLLOW, by P. Alston Waring, Privately Published, 1973. 93 pp. \$3.00.

This modest little book is a first-hand record of events of the greatest importance to students of Bucks County history and devotees of conservation the world over. In 1965 the United States Government designated the Honey Hollow Watershed in Solebury Township, Bucks County, a National Historic Landmark. This was the official accolade of six Bucks County farmers who, by nearly 30 years of back-breaking toil and assiduous study of the principles of ecology, had actually turned the clock back. They had succeeded in restoring approximately 500 acres of land adjacent to Honey Hollow Creek to high productivity, and at the same time making it once again an area of great natural beauty and a haven for wildlife. They cooperatively solved the acute problems of flooding and drought.

Their efforts attracted visits by leading conservationists: Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace, Russell Lord, Hugh Bennett and others. It won the approval of every leading conservation organization and so became the model for the movement to save the land which began in the 1930's and is still gaining momentum. These six Bucks County farmers had been the first to tackle the problems of conservation cooperatively and prove it could be done that way.

The book is beautifully illustrated with ten pen-and-ink drawings by Bucks County artist Charles Child and a map by Forrest Crooks. Only 550 copies were printed by Charles Ingerman, Quixott Press, Doylestown. Printing errors will no doubt be corrected in subsequent editions. Meantime these aberrations will doubtless help make the first edition a collectors' item. The reviewer found it available at bookstores in New Hope and Doylestown. So grab one while you can. A.H.S.

OF MEN AND PLANTS, by Maurice Messegue, The Macmillan Company, New York., American Edition 1973. 327 pp. \$6.95.

This is the fascinating story of Maurice Messegue, the world's foremost plant healer, who has cured thousands by the use of familiar plants and herbs.

Raised in a remote village in France, Maurice learned his art from his father. He uses the special properties of common plants and flowers such as buttercups, garlic, camomile and many others to make up his collection of medicines and treatments.

Messr. Messegue was started on the road to fame by his treatment of Mistinquett, the beloved of Maurice Chevalier. He then began treatment of President Herriot of France, Ali Khan, King Farouk, Pope John XXIII, Utrillo, Winston Churchill and many others.

The book tells how his work became recognized by physicians and how they began to send many of their cases to him. He was very successful in treatments of such afflictions as asthma, arthritis, bronchitis, rheumatism, and ulcers to name a few, that modern drugs did not help.

The plant lore throughout the book — specific flowers, herbs and vegetables used for specific ailments — is very interesting and useful. There are also two appendixes, one listing Messr. Messegue's preparations in detail and another recommends beneficial plants with explicit growing instructions. Also of interest are his suggestions of healthful food for each season plus much sound nutritional advice.

Of Men and Plants is not only a unique memoir to be read for the pure pleasure of it, but a nature's handbook to be used wisely. C.C.

THE SOVEREIGN STATES, 1775 - 1783, by Jackson Turner Main. New Viewpoints, New York, 1973. 502 pp. \$4.95 (paperback)

Between 1775 and 1783 thirteen British colonies were transformed into a nation in a bloody and expensive war. Everyone remembers this but it's really only a small part of the story. Before America could claim a national identity in the form of a Constitution, or even Articles of Confederation, the 13 colonies had become 13 fiercely independent states in a series of 13 little wars. In these wars the enemy wasn't the British, but the political opposition, and the battlefields were the state houses and the ballot boxes.

Each colony is a different story. The existing political and social forces shaped the initial state constitutions and determined how each state met the problems associated with financing a war and the other new responsibilities that came with independence. Professor Main has put all of the pieces together in a valuable and interesting contribution to one of those frequently overlooked areas of American History. H.W.B.

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ON A HILL IN HOLICONG continued from page 6

High on a hill in Holicong, rests the Taylor residence; a three-dimensional autobiography. The long, winding driveway travels over interspersed stone bridges and leads to the stable and fine old house. The stable houses horses, donkeys, and chickens, while the home contains an art studio overflowing with her artistic endeavors, including paintings, sketches, greeting cards, books and booklets, and hundreds of sketch books. Throughout the house are pictures of the family, including the canine mascot, Tiger.

A Bucks County dweller for fourteen years, Mrs. Taylor seems to have taken to this area as well as the Bucks County people have to her. A lover of the outdoors, many of her works, both paintings and literary articles, are of animals, her donkeys and horses a specialty.

She literally can and will draw anything, as anyone who has seen her work will attest. Her favorite subjects though are horses (she was an equestrian artist) and children.

A frequent visitor to Buckingham Friend's School, of which she is a member of the school board, Mrs. Taylor draws endearing sketches of children. She illustrates their school publications and has done a collection of sketches on high school youths incorporating their thoughts on school. This appeared in *Pennsylvania Educational Magazine*.

Mrs. Taylor's credits do not end here. She has also been published and interviewed for the local papers and magazines, and was the editor of a publication for the League of Women Voters in the New Hope area.

Forced early in her career to choose between art and writing, she chose art above a writing career. But being unable to find anyone to write the stories she wanted to illustrate, she began writing again.

The stories of Phoebe Taylor, often appearing in *Panorama*, are a composite of factual stories, but always finish as charmingly original anecdotes.

Mrs. Taylor has written short stories, novelettes and children's books.

Phoebe Taylor's new book, *Gentlemen of Doylestown* has a universal appeal that would make it interesting to people of all ages. The book covers the time when Doylestown was built on Belgium blocks and horses were the mode of transportation, to present reflections of the interviewed men. These men are Daniel D. Atkinson, Arthur M. Leatherman, Samuel R. Sampson, and Leon Nelson. Her artistic insight into history is represented in the quaint etchings of the town that illustrate the book. This book has a place in every home.

CALENDAR of events

Courtesy of the Bucks County Historical-Tourist Commission



- 1-31 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Narration and Famous Painting, "WASHINGTON CROSSING THE DELAWARE," Daily 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Memorial Building at ½ hours intervals. Daily film showings, tentative and subject to change.
- 1-31 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Thompson-Neely House furnished with pre-Revolutionary pieces, Route 32, Washington Crossing State Park. Open daily 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission 50¢ includes a visit to the Old Ferry Inn.
- 1-31 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Old Ferry Inn, Route 532 at the bridge. Restored Revolutionary furniture, gift and snack shop where Washington Punch is sold. Open daily 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission 50¢ includes a visit to the Thompson-Neely House.
- 1-31 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Taylor House, built in 1812 by Mahlon K. Taylor, now serves as headquarters for the Washington Crossing Park Commission. Open to the public 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays.
- 1-31 MORRISVILLE — Pennsbury Manor, the re-created Country Estate of William Penn. Original Manor House was built in 1683. Open to the public daily 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Sunday 1 to 4:30 p.m. Admission 50¢.
- 1-31 PINEVILLE — Wilmar Lapidary Art Museum. The Country's largest private collection of hand-carved semi-precious stones. Open to the public Tuesday thru Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays 1 to 5 p.m. Admission 50¢.

continued on page 30



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- Feb. — *Washington in Bucks County*
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- Mar. — *The Bolton Mansion*
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- Apr. — *Radcliffe Street, Bristol*
New Hope and Ivyland Railroad
- May — *Facts about Bucks County*
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- June — *New Hope Issue*
- July — *Morrisville*
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- Aug. — *Wooden Indians*
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- Sept. — *The First National Spelling Bee*
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MY ALMA IS NO MATER

by Erin Walsh

These days any parents of college-bound children who think that the college still acts "in loco parentis" are loco. Things have changed and the student is really on his own. I have two kids in college right now, attending my own alma mater, but believe me, the only thing that's the same as when I was there is the name of the college.

Granted, a quick look at the clothing worn by the boys on campus will remind you of the returning veterans who flooded the colleges after World War Two. The current craze is for second-hand army uniforms.

One change is pleasant for good old mom. No longer is the weekly laundry case mailed home; all the dorms have washers and dryers. I sent my son off to college with everything but his suitcase permanent-press!

We attended an orientation meeting for new freshmen and their proud parents a few months before classes began. This consisted of a day-long session during which our son received a computerized series of charts which showed his standing in the freshman class, his intelligence and aptitudes (our political science major was judged to be a success as either a farmer or a mortician), and even what marks he might expect to get the first semester. This last seemed to me to take all the challenge out of things. I may be contrary but I derive a certain sense of satisfaction from sweating things out.

During a question period, one father anxiously asked how the coed dorms were working out. This

innovation had taken hold to such an extent that any modest freshmen girls had to indicate on their dorm registration card that they wished to be in the non-coed dorm. These students were considered weird.

The kindly, young guidance counselor conducting the meeting, who seemed to us middle-aged products of a less permissive era to be only a few years older than our children, reassured us. "There is very little immoral behavior in the coed dorms, sir. In fact, many of the students tend to look on one another as brother and sister." This worried me more than the first danger since my kids always fought with their siblings and I had hoped for some lasting friendships to be made in college.

The other big question voiced was about the extent of the drug situation on the campus. Again we were soothed by the counselor who said there was very little hard drugs, just your usual pot. Then he really cheered us up. He told us that indications from colleges all over the country show that the students were turning away from drugs and were drinking more. A hearty round of applause greeted this announcement — here was something we could relate to.

There is one problem about having a child or two at college that no one asked. It is quite a private thing, only discussed between husband and wife in their own home. Where is the money coming from to pay the tuition?

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CALENDAR continued from page 27

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- 1-31 FAIRLESS HILLS — Ice Skating, "LAKE CAROLINE," Oxford Valley Road and Hood Blvd., weather permitting. Free.
- 1-31 APPLEBACHSVILLE — Ice Skating, "LAKE TOWHEE," Old Bethlehem Pike, weather permitting. Free. County Park. Attendant on duty on weekends. No lights for night skating.
- 1-31 BRISTOL — Ice Skating, "SILVERLAKE," Route 13 and Bath Road, weather permitting. Free. County Park. Lights for night skating, dusk 'till 10 p.m.
- 1-31 BRISTOL — The Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Museum, 610 Radcliffe Street. Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday — 1 to 3 p.m., other times by appointment.
- 1-31 NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP — National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Ferry Road. Guided tours — Sunday 2 p.m., other tours upon request by reservations, phone 345-0600. Shrine Religious Gift Shop open 7 days a week 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free Parking. Brochure Available.
- 1-31 Doylestown - Mercer Museum, Pine and Ashland Streets. Hours: Tuesday thru Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission. Special rates for families and groups — groups by appointment. Phone 348-4373.
- 1-31 DOYLESTOWN — Moravian Pottery and Tile Works, Swamp Road (Rt. 313 North of Court St.) Hours: Wed. thru Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday Noon to 5 p.m. Admission. Group rates, groups by appointment. Call 348-2911, Ext. 479 or 284 weekdays.
- 1-31 SELLERSVILLE — Walter Baum Galleries, 225 N. Main Street will present a retrospective one-man art exhibit in observance of the gallery founder's 90th birthday. Hours: 1 to 4 p.m. daily.
- 2,9 PLEASANT VALLEY — Pleasant Hollow Farms, Route 212 and Slifer Valley Road presents a gymkhana and schooling show. Rain or shine in the indoor arena. March 2 — Gymkhana — begins 10 a.m. March 9 — Hunter and Pony Hunter Schooling Show — begins 9:30 a.m. For information contact Mrs. John Cory, Box 481, R.D. No. 1, Coopersburg, Pa. 18036, call 215-346-7294. Activities cancelled and rescheduled if driving is dangerous.

- 2,3 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve Headquarters March 2 — Children's Nature Walk — 10 a.m. to 12 Noon. March 3 — Adult Nature Hike, 2 to 3 p.m.
- 3 WRIGHTSTOWN — Bucks County Folksong Society presents an evening of Folk Music at the Wrightstown Friends Meeting House Recreation Room, Route 413 — 7 p.m. Free. (If you play an instrument, bring it along.)
- 7,8 SELLERSVILLE — The Twiglings of Quakertown Hospital will sponsor their Annual Antique Show, to be held at the Forrest Lodge, Old Bethlehem Pike. Hours: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. each day. Food will be available.
- 9 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Boy and Girl Scout Nature and Conservation instructions. Wildflower Preserve Building, Bowman's Hill. All Day.
- 9 NEWTOWN — Film Series, Bucks County Community College will present "Death in Venice," 8 p.m. in the Library Auditorium. Free.
- 15 NEWTOWN — Bucks County Community College presents one of a Poetry Series, featuring Robert Creeley. For tickets and information write the BCCC, Newtown, Pa. 18940, phone 968-5861.
- 29 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Dying and Crafts exhibitions at the Thompson-Neely House, as part of their Colonial Crafts Day for March 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 30 SOUTHAMPTON — The Churchville Outdoor Education Center and the Silver Lake Outdoor Education Center will sponsor a Field Trip to the Honey Hollow Watershed, Creamery Road, Solebury Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Car Caravan will leave Silver Lake Center at 10 a.m., leave the Churchville Center at 10:15 a.m. and return at 4 p.m. Bring binoculars, cameras and a hardy lunch. Hiking apparel appropriate for the day. Leader is Mr. Austin Waring, Founder of the Watershed.
- 30 NEWTOWN — Delaware Valley Philharmonic Orchestra, Inc., presents a Ballet Concert, featuring the Knecht Ballet Company, at Council Rock High School Auditorium, Swamp Road. 8:30 p.m. Tickets available at the door.
- 30 WARMINSTER — Warminster Choraliers will present a Spring Concert at the Log College Jr. High School, Norristown Road.
- 30, April 6 & 20 DOYLESTOWN — Delaware Valley College, Route 202, will present a Beekeeping Short Course, Mandell Hall Auditorium. Reservations necessary, in advance. \$15.00. Write the College for an application or phone 345-1500.

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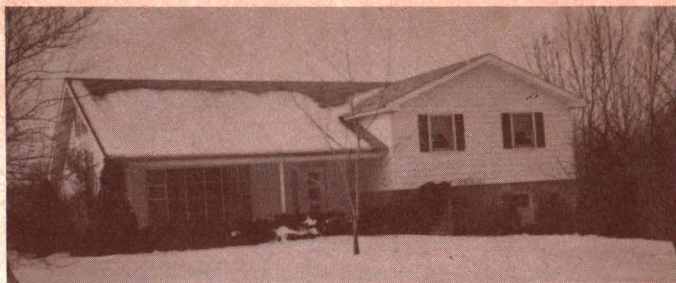
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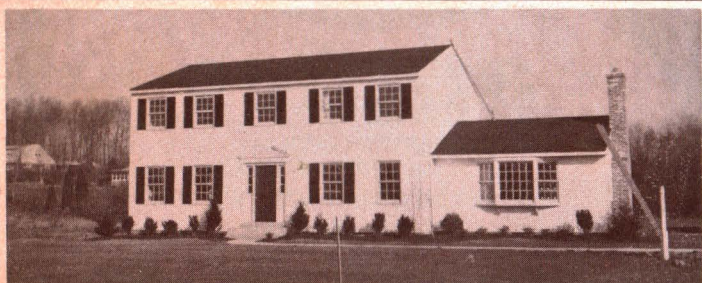


This elegant split level located in a wooded setting in New Britain Township, has a large family room with stone fireplace and powder room on lower level. 1st level: has a spacious living room with large bow window, dining room, large modern eat-in kitchen with dishwasher, disposal and self cleaning oven. 2nd level has a large master bedroom with full bath, 2 other generous size bedrooms and hall bath. 3rd level has a huge bedroom. House has more than ample closet and storage space. Also nicely sized heated 2 car garage and full basement. Extras include, plastered walls, public sewer, HWO 4-zone heat. An excellent home in a beautiful setting for \$61,900.00.



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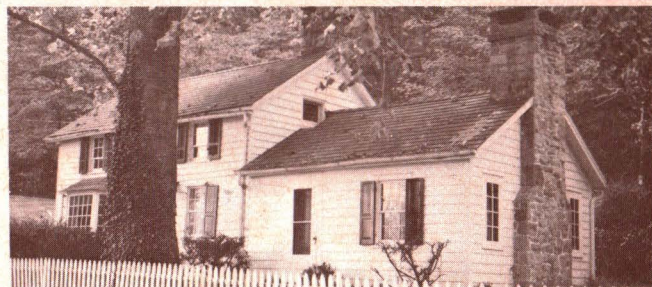


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